
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Petersburg Area Office
16 Sing Lee Alley
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Date: April 24, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Petersburg/Wrangell Herring Update #2

The department conducted aerial surveys of Ernest Sound and Hobart Bay/Port Houghton over the weekend and yesterday. Survey conditions were generally good with light to moderate winds. Fisheries will not occur in either Ernest Sound or Hobart Bay/Port Houghton this spring.

Ernest Sound

Active spawn continued through Sunday, but no active spawn or herring schools were observed yesterday. The cumulative mileage of spawn to date is approximately **9.2 nautical miles**. Spawning was focused in the core spawning area in and around Vixen Inlet, but moderate spawn did occur in the Onslow Island area. In addition, a small spawn occurred on the northeastern corner of Deer Island. The *R/V Kestrel* will be conducting spawn deposition surveys today, April 24.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

Observations of active spawn started on Saturday, April 21 and continued through yesterday. Spawning was focused in the Herring Sanctuary and the immediate vicinity. To date, the cumulative mileage is approximately **1.9 nautical miles**. The predator activity remained high during yesterday's survey and had extended north towards Rockpile Cove.

2012 Herring Summary

Ernest Sound

| | |
|----------|---|
| April 9 | No herring activity; 15 sea lions. |
| April 13 | No herring activity; 15 sea lions. |
| April 16 | 2.5 nm active spawn ; 105 sea lions. |
| April 17 | 2.75 nm active spawn ; 100 sea lions, 2 whales. |
| April 18 | 2.0 nm active spawn ; 16 schools of herring; 92 sea lions. |
| April 19 | 2.25 nm active spawn ; 15 small schools of herring; 130 sea lions. |
| April 20 | 0.70 nm active spawn ; unknown quantity of predators. |
| April 21 | 0.25 nm active spawn ; 43 sea lions. |
| April 22 | 0.2 nm active spawn ; 63 sea lions. |
| April 23 | No herring or active spawn observed; 35 sea lions. |

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

April 18 No herring activity; 50 sea lions.

April 21 **0.7 nm active spawn**; 40 sea lions.

April 22 **1.1 nm active spawn**; 1 large herring school; 36 sea lions; 2 whales.

April 23 **0.7 nm active spawn**; 115 sea lions; 1 whale.

The next aerial survey will be conducted Tuesday, April 24 and will include Hobart Bay/Port Houghton.

Petersburg/Wrangell herring updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

| <i>Office</i> | <i>Ketchikan</i> | <i>Petersburg</i> | <i>Wrangell</i> | <i>Sitka</i> | <i>Juneau</i> | <i>Haines</i> | <i>Hoonah</i> | <i>Yakutat</i> |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>ADFG</i> | 225-5195 | 772-3801 | 874-3822 | 747-6688 | 465-4250 | 766-2830 | | 784-3255 |
| <i>AWT</i> | 225-5111 | 772-3983 | 874-3215 | 747-3254 | 465-4000 | 766-2533 | 945-3620 | 784-3220 |
| <i>Herring Hotline</i> | 225-6870 | 772-3700 | | | 465-8905 | | | |